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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/701,016	11/05/2003	Yuich Yamaguchi	037267-0149	5844
22428	7590	11/13/2007	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP			SALIARD, SHANNON S	
SUITE 500			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3000 K STREET NW			3628	
WASHINGTON, DC 20007				

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
11/13/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/701,016	YAMAGUCHI, YUICHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Shannon S. Saliard	3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,4,6-15,18-25,28-34 and 37-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 6-15, 18-25, 28-34, and 37-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 6-8, 15, 18-20, 25, 29-31, 34, and 40, and cancelled claims 3, 5, 16, 17, 26, 27, 35, and 36. No claims have added. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-15, 18-25, 28-34, and 37-42 remain pending and are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's amendments filed 29 August 2007, with respect to the rejections of claims 25 and 32-42 under 35 U.S.C. 101, have been fully considered and are persuasive. Thus, the rejections of claims 25 and 32-42 under 35 U.S.C. 101 has been withdrawn.

3. Applicant's arguments filed 29 August 2007, with respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. Applicant argues (with respect to claims 1, 15, 25, and 34) that the cited prior art fails to disclose "wherein said handy terminal displays a plurality of said taxi data therein such that a user of said handy terminal can select a taxi among displayed taxis, based on said plurality of said taxi data." However, the Examiner submits that Morimoto discloses, "At a taxi stand, the taxi user 1 accesses the local portal server 4 via the wireless local access point 3, **by operating his/her own browser phone 2**. At the local portal server 4, it is possible to connect to the taxi company server 7 of more than one taxi company. **The taxi user transmits a message for selecting a specific taxi**

company from a plurality of taxi companies, from the browser phone 2 to the local portal server 4 via the wireless local access point 3. Then, at the local portal server 4, it is connected to the taxi company server 7 of a taxi company selected by the taxi user 1" [0037]. *Thus, a portable terminal (i.e., browser phone) is used to select taxi data (i.e., taxi company) from a plurality of taxi data.* Furthermore, it is known that a taxi company is made up of a plurality of taxis; and, as such, if a user chooses from a plurality of companies, he is indeed choosing from a plurality of taxis. Examiner also notes that the limitation "such that a user of said handy terminal can select a taxi among displayed taxis, based on said plurality of said taxi data" is being given little patentable weight because it is the **intended result** of using the structure available in Morimoto to perform the recited steps.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 12-15, 18, 19, 21-25, 28, 29, 33, 34, 37, 38, and 42** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayed [US 6,756,913] in view of Lee [US 2004/0177109] and Morimoto [US 2005/00227620].

As per claims 1, 25, and 34, Ayed discloses a system for hiring a taxi, comprising a handy terminal, a receiver equipped in a taxi, and a calculator, said handy terminal having functions of detecting a current position of itself through GPS (Global Positioning System) [col 4, line 62 – col 5, lines 1], and transmitting a request to said receiver of a taxi located in the vicinity of said handy terminal that said taxi comes to said handy terminal [col 5, lines 1-30]; and a calculator [col 3, lines 45-51]. Ayed does not explicitly disclose said calculator calculating an arrival time at which said taxi is expected to arrive at said handy terminal, based on said current position of said handy terminal and a current position of said taxi; and further comprising a taxi-data server storing therein data relating to said taxi, said handy terminal having a function of displaying said taxi data transmitted from said taxi-data server. However, Lee discloses a server storing taxi information for display on the mobile device of a customer [0031]. Lee further discloses calculating an optimal route to the location of the client based on the current state of the taxi [0030]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include the method disclosed by Lee so that a user can make a determination if he/ she would like to wait and so that the customer does not take the wrong taxi causing the driver to lose wages. Ayed does not disclose wherein said handy terminal displays a plurality of said taxi data such that a user of said handy terminal can select a taxi among displayed taxis, based on said plurality of said taxi data. However, Morimoto discloses the user transmits a message for selecting a specific taxi company [0037]. Morimoto further discloses that the taxi user can perform a request specifying a specific driver

[040]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include wherein said handy terminal displays a plurality of said taxi data such that a user of said handy terminal can select a taxi among displayed taxis, based on said plurality of said taxi data so that the user can choose a driver that meets his/ her standards (i.e., safety).

As per **claim 2**, Ayed further discloses wherein said calculator is equipped in said handy terminal [col 3, lines 45-51].

As per **claims 6, 18, 28, and 37**, Ayed does not explicitly disclose wherein said steps further include downloading said taxi data from said taxi-data server to said handy terminal through a packet network, a packet network gateway and Internet. However, Lee discloses that the mobile terminal communicates through a wireless Internet network [0015]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include the method disclosed by Alee so that the system can be used anywhere in the world.

As per **claims 7, 19, 29, and 38**, Ayed further discloses wherein said handy terminal downloads said taxi data from said taxi-data server thereto through a cellular phone network [col 6, lines 15-17; Fig. 1]. Ayed does not explicitly disclose an access point of an Internet service provider (ISP) and Internet. However, Lee discloses that the mobile terminal communicates through a wireless Internet network [0015]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include the method disclosed by Alee so that the system can be used anywhere in the world.

As per **claims 9 and 21**, Ayed does not disclose wherein said handy terminal receives, after transmission of said request to said receiver, at least one of a current position of said handy terminal and a current position of said taxi at real-time. However, Lee discloses a navigation system located within the taxi that transmits the taxi state to the client in real-time with regard to traffic and location information [0036]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include the method disclosed by Lee so for good customer service and so that a customer does not leave while the taxi is in-route.

As per **claims 12, 23, 33, and 42**, Ayed does not disclose further including a memory storing therein data of a route which a taxi a user of said handy terminal hired ran. However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well known in the GPS and/or navigation art to store previous routes that have been ran. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include further including a memory storing therein data of a route which a taxi a user of said handy terminal hired ran so that the taxi company can keep of log of their drivers utilization.

As per **claims 13 and 24**, Ayed further discloses wherein said handy terminal is comprised of a cellular phone [Fig. 1].

As per **claim 14**, Ayed does not disclose further comprising a map-data server storing therein data about a map of an area covering from a current position of said taxi to a current position of said handy terminal, and data about speed restriction of roads in said area, said handy terminal receiving said data from said map-data server. However,

Lee discloses a car navigation system with a map in which the client location information is displayed along with real-time traffic information and the client can learn about his taxi state by watching and hearing traffic [0029; 0036]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include the method disclosed by Lee to add to customer service, as suggested by Lee [0036].

As per **claim 15**, Ayed discloses a handy terminal used in a system for hiring a taxi, said system being comprised of said handy terminal and a receiver equipped in a taxi, said handy terminal having functions of detecting a current position of itself through GPS (Global Positioning System) [col 4, line 62 – col 5, lines 1], and transmitting a request to said receiver equipped in a taxi located in the vicinity of said handy terminal that said taxi comes to said handy terminal [col 5, lines 1-30], said handy terminal including a calculator [col 3, lines 45-50]. Ayed does not explicitly disclose calculating an arrival time at which said taxi is expected to arrive at said handy terminal, based on said current position of said handy terminal and a current position of said taxi. However, Lee discloses calculating an optimal route to the location of the client based on the current state of the taxi [0030]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include the method disclosed by Lee so that a user can make a determination if he/ she would like to wait.

7. **Claims 4, 8, 10, 11, 20, 22, 30-32, and 39-41** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayed [US 6,756,913] in view of Lee [US 2004/0177109] and Morimoto [US 2005/00227620] as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Takanashi et al [US 2003/0065556].

As per **claim 4**, Ayed does not disclose wherein said taxi data includes at least one of a current position of said taxi, a fare of said taxi, an age of a driver of said taxi, years for which a driver of said taxi continues service, comments of said driver, and comments of a user who previously took said taxi. However, Takanashi et al discloses wherein said taxi data includes at least one of a current position of said taxi, a fare of said taxi, an age of a driver of said taxi, years for which a driver of said taxi continues service, comments of said driver, and comments of a user who previously took said taxi [0050]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include the method disclosed by Takanashi et al so that the user can choose a driver that meets his/ her standards (i.e., safety).

As per **claims 8, 20, 30, and 39**, Ayed does not disclose further comprising a memory storing data of taxis which users used to hire, and wherein said calculator receives a current position of a taxi which a user of the handy terminal selects among said taxis, from said taxi-data server, and calculates an arrival time at which said selected taxi is expected to arrive at said handy terminal, based on a current position of said handy terminal and said current position of said taxi. However, Lee discloses calculating an optimal route to the location of the client based on the current state of the

taxi [0030]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include the method disclosed by Lee so that a user can make a determination if he/ she would like to wait. Furthermore, Morimoto discloses the user transmits a message for selecting a specific taxi company [0037]. Morimoto further discloses that the taxi user can perform a request specifying a specific driver [040]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include wherein said handy terminal displays a plurality of said taxi data such that a user of said handy terminal can select a taxi among displayed taxis, based on said plurality of said taxi data so that the user can choose a driver that meets his/ her standards (i.e., safety). Further, Takanashi et al discloses storing the current state of the hired taxis in the memory [0043-0045]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include the method disclosed by Takanashi et al so that the server does not allocate an occupied taxi to a waiting patron.

As per **claims 10, 31 and 40**, Ayed does not disclose wherein said taxi-data server receives comments of a user of said handy terminal about a taxi which said user hired, through Internet. However, Morimoto discloses transmitting a questionnaire through wireless access point on the phone and transmits the information to the taxi company server [0057]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include the method disclosed by Morimoto so that the company can analyze responses [0057].

As per **claims 11, 22, 32, and 41**, Ayed does not disclose wherein said handy terminal includes a transmitter transmitting data of a destination to said receiver when said handy terminal transmits said request to said receiver. However, Takanashi et al discloses that the destination input by the requestor is transmitted to a dispatch center [0055]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Ayed to include the method disclosed by Takanashi et al for optimal deployment of taxis.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shannon S. Saliard whose telephone number is 571-272-5587. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Application/Control Number:
10/701,016
Art Unit: 3628

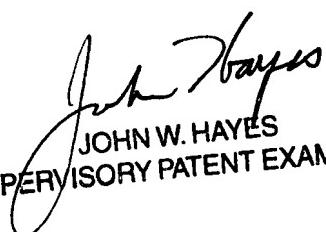
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"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window,
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Shannon S Saliard
Examiner
Art Unit 3628

sss


JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER